

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Case No. 2:16-CR-363 JCM (GWF)

Plaintiff(s),

ORDER

v.

NOAH PATRICK FIELDS,

Defendant(s).

Presently before the court is petitioner Noah Patrick Fields' motion to vacate, amend, or correct his sentence pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255. (ECF No. 40). The government filed no response, and the time to do so has passed.

I. Background

Petitioner is currently incarcerated in Victorville USP. (ECF No. 40). On May 15, 2017, petitioner pled guilty to 1) aiding and abetting Hobbs Act robbery ("count one"), and 2) use of a firearm during and in relation to "a crime of violence," specifically the aiding and abetting Hobbs Act robbery, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1)(A) ("count two"). (ECF Nos. 26, 28, 29).

On August 24, 2017, this court sentenced petitioner to 51 months of imprisonment on count one and a consecutive sentence of 84 months imprisonment on count two. (ECF Nos. 31, 33). Petitioner was also sentenced to a 5-year term of supervised release. (*Id.*).

In light of the intervening change in law of *United States v. Davis*, 139 S. Ct. 2319 (2019) ("*Davis*"), petitioner seeks the vacatur of his § 924(c) conviction under 28 U.S.C. § 2255(a).

II. Legal Standard

Federal prisoners "may move . . . to vacate, set aside or correct [their] sentence" if the court imposed the sentence "in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States." 28 U.S.C. § 2255(a). Relief pursuant to § 2255 should be granted only where "a fundamental

1 defect” caused “a complete miscarriage of justice.” *Davis v. United States*, 417 U.S. 333, 345
 2 (1974); *see also Hill v. United States*, 368 U.S. 424, 428 (1962).

3 Limitations on § 2255 motions exist because the movant “already has had a fair
 4 opportunity to present his federal claims to a federal forum,” whether or not he took advantage of
 5 the opportunity. *United States v. Frady*, 456 U.S. 152, 164 (1982). Section 2255 “is not
 6 designed to provide criminal defendants multiple opportunities to challenge their sentence.”
 7 *United States v. Johnson*, 988 F.2d 941, 945 (9th Cir. 1993). Furthermore, a petitioner’s claims
 8 are procedurally barred if they could have been raised on direct appeal are not. *Massaro v.*
 9 *United States*, 538 U.S. 500, 504 (2003); *Bousley v. United States*, 523 U.S. 614, 622 (1998).
 10 However, procedural default is excused if the defendant can show cause *and* prejudice, or actual
 innocence. *Id.*

11 **III. Discussion**

12 This court grants petitioner’s timely motion. Per the local rules, “[t]he failure of an
 13 opposing party to include points and authorities in response to any motion constitutes a consent
 14 to granting the motion.” LCR 47-3. On June 24, 2020, this court set a scheduling order with a
 15 response deadline of July 15, 2020. (ECF No. 41). The government has not responded.

16 Furthermore, this court has reviewed the record in this matter and finds petitioner’s
 17 motion meritorious. On June 24, 2019, the Supreme Court held in *Davis* that § 924(c)’s residual
 18 clause is unconstitutionally vague in violation of the Due Process Clause. 139 S. Ct. 2319
 19 (2019). In light of *Davis*, the crime of “aiding and abetting Hobbs Act robbery”—as charged in
 20 count one—categorically fails to qualify as a “crime of violence.” Thus, petitioner’s conviction
 21 under count two cannot be sustained due to the fundamental defect uncovered by the foregoing
 22 substantive change in law. *See Davis v. United States*, 417 U.S. 333, 345 (1974) (ruling that
 23 relief pursuant to § 2255 should be granted only where “a fundamental defect” caused “a
 24 complete miscarriage of justice”); *see also Teague v. Lane*, 489 U.S. 288 (1989) (applying
 decisions retroactively to cases on collateral review if “substantive”).

25 Without a hearing, this court vacates petitioner’s conviction of 84 months imprisonment
 26 for count two and reimposes the same prior sentence of 51 months of imprisonment for count
 27 one along with a supervised release term of 5 years.

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...

1 **IV. Conclusion**

2 Accordingly,

3 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED that petitioner's motion to
4 vacate, set aside, or correct sentence pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255 (ECF No. 40) be, and the
5 same hereby is, GRANTED.

6 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that petitioner's consecutive sentence of 84 months
7 imprisonment for count two—use of a firearm during and in relation to “a crime of violence” in
8 violation of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1)(A)—(ECF No. 33) be, and the same hereby is, VACATED.

9 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that petitioner's consecutive sentence of 51 months
10 imprisonment and supervised release term of 5 years for count one—aiding and abetting Hobbs
11 Act robbery—(ECF No. 33) be, and the same hereby is, REINSTATED.

12 DATED July 29, 2020.

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE